MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): May I know whether any Mahomedan had applied?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): None, for the clerk's post.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*c*), may I know whether the appointment of the particular candidate has been sanctioned by the Government? Was it with the permission of the Government that this appointment was made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The President of the Panchayat Court asked for permission and that was given.

Export Duty on Copra.

110. **MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): With reference to the reply to my motion for the reduction of export duty on *copra* printed at page 426 of Vol. IX of the Council Proceedings, will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by them on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Tour to England of Dewan Mr. M. E. Watts.

111. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether Mr. M. E. Watts, the Dewan, had any State business to be transacted when he went last to England, and, if so, what it was;

(*b*) whether Mr. M. E. Watts has drawn any allowance for his journey to and from England, and, if so, what is the amount so drawn and why this allowance was given; and

(*c*) whether their attention has been drawn to an article contained in the *Sunday Times*, London, explaining the object of Mr. M. E. Watts's visit to England, and, if so, whether there is any truth in that statement?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The answers are in the negative.

(*c*) The Government have seen no such article in the *Sunday Times*; but their attention was drawn to a gossip-writer's paragraph in the *Daily Express*, London. The statement is untrue.

Arrangement during the Absence of the Chief Engineer on Leave.

112. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) why an Assistant Engineer was asked to be in charge of the Chief Engineer's duties during his leave;

(*b*) whether it was on the recommendation of the Chief Engineer; and

(*c*) whether this Assistant Engineer granted casual leave to, and passed travelling allowance bills of, Executive Engineers during the period.

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